

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CO-OPERATIVE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA (INC) HELD AT TWIN WATERS RESORT, SUNSHINE COAST ON SATURDAY, 19 APRIL 1997 AT 9.00 A.M.

PRESENT

Frank O'Connor	(Chairman)
David Osgood	SA
Tony Gill	Vic
John Booth	WA
Don Kinnersley	NSW
Lui Raiteri	Qld
Jim Howard	Qld

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Amendment of Minutes and Constitution

This gave effect to altered provisions on winding up demanded before registration of Association would be granted. New constitution to be provided later by Mr. O'Connor.

Paragraph 8(a) was amended to show Don Kinnersley advised of the Credit Unions wish not to be involved in Co-operative Image promotion. Tony Gill remained as having tabled his report. A further sentence was added on to the paragraph indication "Queensland to pursue the matter further."

Moved Tony Gill, seconded David Osgood that;

Following amendment to Minutes as per Minute Book, the minutes of the previous meeting be endorsed.

CARRIED

Income Tax

Moved Tony Gill, seconded Don Kinnersley that, Income Tax paid be approved.

CARRIED

Financial Position

Noted

Balance	\$14,079.90	31 March 1997
Cheque A/C	86.19	31 March 1997

## CORRESPONDENCE

### Section 120(1)(c)

It was confirmed that the National Chairman had written to the Prime Minister on behalf of Council as previously discussed.

It was noted that the Queensland Federation was to be congratulated on its pursuit of the issue and the beneficial result.

General discussion ensued on its applicability now being widened in other states.

## NEW AGENDA ITEMS

A new agenda was tabled , amended and agreed to as follows

### Chairman

Mr. Frank O'Connor stated that his two year term as Chairman was up and that he was standing down from the position. Mr O'Connor was thanked by all for his stewardship. As Chairman of the meeting Mr. O'Connor called for nominations for the position.

Nominated by Don Kinnersley, seconded David Osgood that James Howard from Queensland be appointed Chairman.

## CARRIED

Mr. Howard thanked those present and invited Mr. O'Connor to continue in the Chair as he was aware of the Agenda details.

### Bank Accounts.

It was resolved that any two councillors be empowered to sign and that both Cheque and Investment Account would remain in W.A. at this stage.

### Taxation

Clubs registered as Co-operatives are not paying tax on member trading profits. The Hotels Association is lobbying vigorously such that the Taxation Act Div 9 may be removed.

Mr. Gill was to prepare a submission for Mr. J. Howard pursuant to the portfolio on Taxation. (This issue is to be taken up by a proposed Taxation Interest Group.)

## Legislation

CCH - Co-operative Legislation Book by Donald Magarey needs to be rewritten on a national basis (probably by Jenni Mattila). It was decided to leave in the hands of J. Howard to negotiate national endorsement arrangements and that a book should be encouraged at an appropriate time.

It was noted as desirable to have the conversion of companies to co-operatives included in the Roll - back provisions. This would provide the ability under Corporations Law to convert from a co-operative to a company.

All present sought a common submission, John Booth is to draft a letter for discussion for each state to submit to their Attorney General.

Lengthy discussion ensued on several aspects of the act. It was clear that prompt revision as a National issue was needed.

However, clarification of Subordinated Debt, independent directors including employee managing Directors and the approval process for the distribution of bonus shares were identified as last minute important items.

Further, that the legislation generally was too important across the nation to stand in its way. A number of matters will be revisited as part of an early review. In addition the Trading/Non Trading distinction needs to be further discussed.

Process for Review - contact local Federations and they will advise Mr. Howard of National Issues.

## Image

- (a) National Chairman to progress and to take action as necessary.
- (b) Form an interest group to advise research and fund further action to be taken.
- (c) It was decided that a National Co-operatives Conference to be held in Canberra would be an excellent proposal that was to be organised as self funding. Chairman to facilitate professional arrangements and liaise on sponsorship.

It was also noted as desirable that the Australian Parliament should be sitting when the conference occurs. The following State Conferences are held:-

Western Australia  
South Australia  
Victoria

April  
October  
AGM Aug. - October



NSW  
Queensland

13 - 14th ???  
April - May

It was suggested possibly the end of April 1998 - Thursday 23 / Friday 24 April 1998 may suit.

Please advise possible key speakers on topics. Some that have been discussed

Ian Langdon	Image and Fund Raising
David Woolrych	Deregulation and Competition Policy
Chris Connors	Taxation
Kevin Martin	Service to the Public
Interest Group Workshops	

- (d) There is a need to raise the profile with lawyers and accountants. Law Institute Advertisements and personal visits may be necessary by each state to promote co-operatives. Approaches on a common view on Accounting Standards was deemed desirable.

#### Co-op Update Year Book

Agree in Principle and will support without funds. However, if Chris Greenwood makes a commercial decision to go ahead, we will endorse the format and encourage support.

#### Victorian Overseas Project Corporation

Discussion was held on a letter by a Victorian Overseas Project Corp - on a sheep development project to develop as a co-operative.

It was noted and decided no action was to be taken.

#### Competition Policy

Considerable discussion on possible impacts. It was requested that Ashers 1996 Qld Conference Paper be sent to all States. It appears different interpretations are possible and indications were given at the N.S.W. 1996 Key Issue Conference, that it was only a matter of time before co-operatives were targeted by ACCC.

A position paper was to be prepared by N.S.W. for discussion.

Process for Review - contact local Federations and they will advise Mr. Howard of National Issues.



Chairman Authorised To Act

The National Chairman is authorised to facilitate interest groups to promote the Co-operative image nationally and to fund projects that are in the interest of the Co-operative movement generally.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 15 July 1997 Melbourne

It was resolved to book the Golden Wing Meeting Room from 9.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.  
Five members and one guest to attend at this stage.

*James Howard*